

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 NSC-10 DRC-01 SS-15 /072 W

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R 110800Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1043

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652C N/A TAGS: PINT , TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT COMES TO IZMIR

1. ON THE EVENING OF SEPT 9 RPP PARTY CHAIRMAN
BULENT ECEVIT CLIMAXED A LONG DAY OF CAMPAIGNING
BY FLYING INTO IZMIR AND GIVING A SPEECH AT A LOCAL
STADIUM. STADIUM PREEMPTED BY RPP FOR ECEVIT
SPEECH WAS TO HAVE BEEN SCENE OF FRENCH DAREDEVIL
DRIVING SHOW. SINCE PROMOTER OF SHOW WAS RPP
SUPPORTER SHOW WAS PRESENTED FOR RALLY ATTENDEES
UNTIL ECEVIT APPEARED.

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2. ECEVIT DID NOT ARRIVE AT STADIUM UNTIL NEARLY
10 PM,90 MINUTES AFTER THE CROWD HAD ASSEMBLED.
GIVEN THE APPARENT TURKISH FASCINATION WITH DAREDEVIL
DRIVING CROWD GREATLY ENJOYED PRELIMINARY SHOW.
ECEVIT'S ARRIVAL WAS ALMOST ANTICLIMATIC. BY THE
TIME HE ARRIVED THE EDGE OF EXCITEMENT AND ANTICI-
PATION HAD BEEN WORN AWAY.
3. APPROXIMATELY 22,000 PARTY FAITHFUL ATTENDED THE
SPEECH ALMOST FILLING THE 25,000 CAPACITY STADIUM.
RECEPTION WAS LESS THAN TUMULTOUS. A FEW HUNDRED OF THE MORE
ENERGETIC SUPPORTERS JUMPED OUT OF THE STANDS TO
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ESCORT ECEVIT'S CAR AROUND STADIUM TRACK. CROWD IN

STANDS RESPONDED TO ECEVIT AS CAR PASSED BUT AT NO POINT WAS STADIUM FULLY ENGULFED BY CHEERS OF SUPPORT.

4. ECEVIT, UNDOUBTEDLY TIRED AFTER LONG DAY OF TRAVEL, WITH PRESS CONFERENCE IN ANKARA AND A SPEECH IN ISTANBUL, GAVE SPEECH LONG ON PLATITUDES AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. ALTHOUGH SPEECH CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE, SUSTAINED APPLAUSE

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OCCURED ONLY TWICE. THE FIRST OF THESE WAS NEAR BEGINNING OF SPEECH WHEN HE PREDICTED RPP WOULD COME TO POWER . THE SECOND OCCURED IN MIDDLE OF SPEECH WHEN HE SAID A SOCIETY BUILT ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS (IN ECEVIT'S PROPOSED SOCIETY THE VILLAGER WOULD BE THAT FOUNDATION) WOULD NOT NEED TO FEAR EITHER COMMUNISM NOR ANARCHISM. ENTIRE SPEECH WAS PITCHED TOWARD VILLAGERS AND FORMER VILLAGERS. A FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL APPROACH IN THIS CITY OF EX VILLAGERS. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, MANY IZMIRLILER WHO NO LONGER IDENTIFY WITH VILLAGERS, AND PROLONGED USE OF THIS THEME MIGHT ALIENATE THIS ELEMENT OF POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS.

5. JUST PRIOR TO ECEVIT'S ARRIVAL INTERESTING INCIDENT OCCURRED. SEVERAL LOCAL RPP DEPUTY CANDIDATES APPEARED AND BEGAN TO WALK AROUND TRACK. CROWD INTEREST IMMEDIATELY ATTRACTED BY SULEYMAN GENC WHO, DEMONSTRATING SOME OF THE CHARISMA WHICH QUICKLY MAKING HIM LOCAL RPP HERO, APPROACHED PODIUM AND WAS ON VERGE OF TAKING MICROPHONE TO

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MAKE A FEW COMMENTS WHEN ECEVIT APPEARED.

6. COMMENT: RALLY WAS SUCCESSFUL. CROWD, WHILE NOT OVERWHELMING, SATISFACTORILY FILLED STADIUM. APPEARANCE OF ECEVIT, THE FIRST MAJOR POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISITOR OF THE CAMPAIGN , GAVE RPP A HEAD START ON OTHER PARTIES.

SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973IZMIR00388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: IZMIR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730943/aaaabfqm.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT COMES TO IZMIR
TAGS: PINT, TU, RPP, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005